



A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

School Leader Update

August 2011

NEW REPORT: Iowa's education system in need of major remodel

Students are missing the mark in math and reading competency while their counterparts in other states have made significant gains, according to a new report released by the Iowa Department of Education.

Achievement trends show stagnant scores across the board, from disadvantaged and minority students to white, relatively affluent students. The results document Iowa's slide from a national leader to an average, or sometimes below average, performer.

"There are many good schools across the state, but given the global nature of the economy, we need them to be great," said Jason Glass, Iowa Department of Education director.

Continued on page 9



In This Issue

IDEA updates ... 3

School Energy Challenge ... 8

New brain injury law ... 12

Let's work together to remodel education

It's that special time of year when Iowa schoolhouses come alive after the summer break. Hallways and classrooms fill with teachers, students and staff members who are full of anticipation for the new school year. The first day of school marks the ultimate fresh start.

In education, we get cycles of fresh starts every year. Each new school year and class of students brings promise, and the importance of our work as a connection to our state and to our country's future becomes tangible.

It's my hope that the 2011-12 school year also marks a fresh start for Iowa's education system. Despite our strong foundation as a top state for schools, Iowa's house of education needs a significant upgrade. Iowa's students deserve an education system on par with the highest-performing systems in the world.

It's now up to us to have the courage and vision to design a blueprint to transform Iowa's school system into one of those highest-performing systems. To reach that goal, Iowa must set a clear, reform-minded policy direction that builds from its strengths and past successes but also adopts whole system improvements with lessons learned from the highest-performing systems and adapts them to Iowa's context.

We must have a clear set of expectations for all students and clear, fair measures for results. We must have highly effective educators who are provided the resources they need to be successful and work in symphony for every student.



Jason Glass, Director

Continued on page 9

Waivers or exemptions from Iowa Department of Education

These five waivers or exemptions are available from the Iowa Department of Education:

- Chapter 12 exemption for 2012-13 – Due January 1, 2012
- New innovative calendar for 2012-13 – Due November 1, 2011
- Continued innovative calendar for 2012-13 – Due November 1, 2011
- Early start date for 2012-13 (Completed on the district's 2012 spring BEDS report)
- Foreign language for 2011-12

Requirements vary for each waiver:

Waiver / Exemption	Form	Board Approval or Hearing	Deadline
Chapter 12 – General Accreditation Standards 281-IAC 12.9	Paper document located at: http://www.educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=483&Itemid=530	Board minutes that demonstrate the local school board has approved the request.	January 1 preceding the school year for which the waiver is requested.
New innovative calendar and continued innovative calendar 279.10	Paper document located at: http://www.educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=483&Itemid=530	Documentation of public hearing.	November 1 preceding the school year for which the waiver is requested defined in the Code of Iowa.
Early start 279.10(4)	Web-based document located on the Spring BEDS Report: https://www.edinfo.state.ia.us/securelogin.asp	Assurances that the school district has held a public hearing and that starting school on the earliest starting date specified in Iowa Code section 279.10 subsection 1 will have a significant negative educational impact.	June 15 preceding the school year for which the waiver is requested defined in the Code of Iowa.
Foreign language 256.11(5)(f)	Paper document located at: http://www.educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=483&Itemid=530	Minutes that demonstrate the local school board has approved this request to be waived from the 3rd and 4th sequential units of foreign language.	

Requirements for a public hearing include:

1. Prior publication of date, time and place of hearing.
2. Purpose(s) of the hearing shall be included in the notice.
3. The specifics of the notice vary. See authoring statutes at: <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/IACODE/2003SUPPLEMENT/tablesandindex/> by entering the appropriate chapter and sections.

The public hearing is designed to give the public a chance to weigh in on the proposed issue. It can be part of the regular board meeting, or it may be a special board meeting. In either case, the minutes of the meeting shall document that the public was given an opportunity to comment, regardless of whether anyone attended or provided input.

For more information, please contact Del Hoover at 515-281-8402 or del.hoover@iowa.gov.

Iowa meets IDEA requirements

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires states to submit data annually on 20 indicators for school-aged children with disabilities and 14 indicators for children from birth to age three. States also describe activities they are engaged in to impact each indicator. Iowa has met requirements for both school-aged children and youth and early childhood. For more information, contact Marty Ikeda (515-281-5735 or marty.ikeda@iowa.gov) or Laurabelle Sherman-Proehl (515-242-6018 or laurabelle.sherman-proehl@iowa.gov).

IDEA waiver of state financial support

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires states to set aside at least the same amount of state funding toward special education no matter the state's financial circumstance. IDEA allows states to petition for a waiver of state financial support. Iowa was denied a waiver for 2011, so the state was required to obligate \$3.88 million of state dollars to special education or have the 2011 IDEA Part B grant award reduced by that amount. The Special Education Finance Team has provided information to schools on reclassifying general education dollars to special education.

The U.S. Department of Education has approved Iowa's actions, and the IDEA Part B grant for 2011 will be allocated with no dollars withheld due to insufficient state financial support for special education. For more information, contact Steve Crew (515-326-1029 or steve.crew@iowa.gov) or Thomas Mayes (515-242-5614 or thomas.mayes@iowa.gov).

Microsoft settlement updates: ICN sessions available



ICN sessions will be held for all participants in the Microsoft Cy Pres program on September 6, 7 and 8 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. The sessions will contain information about vouchers and claims, external evaluation participation and procedures for amending your application. A representative from the claims administrator will help answer your questions. Registration opens August 9 at http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=11186. Each session is limited to 65 participants. September 6 is set up for eastern districts: Keystone AEA 1, Elkader; Mississippi Bend AEA 9, Bettendorf; Great Prairie AEA 15, Ottumwa; Great Prairie AEA 16, Burlington; Grant Wood AEA 10, Cedar Rapids; September 7 for central districts: AEA 267, Cedar Falls; Heartland AEA 11, Johnston; September 8 for western districts: Prairie Lakes AEA 8, Pocahontas; AEA 4, Sioux Center; AEA 12, Sioux City; Green Hills AEA 13, Council Bluffs; AEA 14 Green Valley, Creston.

One important update regarding additions or changes to your application: For subsequent school years, changes can be made only during August, September and October of each year. Changes to the hardware, software and teaching strategies can be made each year of the program. It's important for district and building leaders to plan for upcoming school years and to make necessary changes as needed to reduce administrative cost and to make the process as smooth as possible. To make changes in one of three allowed areas, send an email to John O'Connell: john.oconnell@mchsi.com or john.oconnell@iowa.gov. John will follow up by e-mail with approval or a request for clarification. Finally, please contact John with any changes in administration or contact information for this program. Check the contact information on the application site at <http://www.edinfo.state.ia.us> (login and select the district name to check the eligible schools in your district). Notify John to de-certify your application so you can make the district contact change. This is very important because this person will be contacted directly by the claims administrator, the external evaluator and John. If there has been an administrative change, send John the district name, the name of the building, and the new administrator's name and email address.

Evaluator Approval Training Program

For the last two years, the Iowa Evaluator Approval Training Program state advisory committee has worked on the structure and focus of Level III renewal of the evaluator's license. This work has been based on experience and input from practicing administrators who have been involved with the training for Level I and Level II renewal and their experience applying the previous training at the local school level. The following is available to anyone who needs renewal:

1. Four credit hours are needed for renewal of the administrator license at Level III.
2. Everyone will need to take the Assessing Academic Rigor course, which is available in all of the AEAs. This option will count for two of the four credits needed.
3. In addition:
 - a. In-state administrators may take another course for credit with researched-based content that aligns with the work of their district or their own individual professional development. This course must be an Area Education Agency (AEA) licensure renewal credit or a semester credit from a regionally accredited institution, or,
 - b. They may take the Fierce Conversations course, which is a two-credit course offered through each of the AEAs.
 - c. Individuals coming from out of state will be required to take the I-Evaluate online class for full administrative licensure. Please contact Fred Kinne 515-281-3587 or fred.kinne@iowa.gov for further information.



Given new leadership at the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Evaluator Approval Training Program advisory committee and others will be working to review the direction and focus of the plans beyond what is currently established. This review will be conducted over the next six months to a year.

Those who need to renew at Level III before July 2012 are advised to participate in the arrangement as described above. Administrators who do not need to renew at Level III for another year or more may decide to wait and

determine if any changes in the training for evaluator approval Level III would be more appropriate for their work.

An FAQ is attached to help address more specific questions. Please submit any additional questions to Matt Ludwig at matt.ludwig@iowa.gov or Connie Maxson at connie.maxson@iowa.gov. Those questions will be addressed in future updates and FAQ documents that will be shared with all administrators across the state.

Site visit training for the 2011-12 school year

Training sessions will be held in September and October for districts and schools having site visits during the 2011-12 school year. These sessions will help guide preparation for the visits. See the September School Leader Update for information about additional web-based trainings.

Districts that receive equity visits are encouraged to attend training at the Grimes State Office Building, **location to be announced**, on Wednesday, September 21, from 1-3:30 p.m. School improvement consultants will offer site visit trainings in person at each AEA early in September and October.

See table below:



Local Site Visit Training Opportunities

Consultant	Date	Time	Location
Holly Barnes	9/7/11	12:30-3:00	Keystone AEA in Elkader, Room D1
Barb Byrd	9/14/11 10/5/11 9/28/11	9:30-11:30 1:00-3:00 9:30-11:30	GPAEA, Ottumwa office GPAEA, Ottumwa office GPAEA, Burlington office
Elizabeth Calhoun	9/1/11	12:30 - 2:00	Northwest AEA-LeMars CSD, Administrative offices
Holly Barnes	9/8/11	12:30-3:00	Mississippi Bend AEA in Bettendorf, Cedar Room
Holly Barnes & TBD	9/21/11	9:30-11:30	AEA 267 Cedar Falls office - Polycom available for Marshalltown and Clear Lake sites
Holly Barnes & TBD	9/21/11	1:00-3:00	AEA 267 Clear Lake office - Polycom available for Marshalltown and Clear Lake sites
Barb Byrd & TBD	10/4/11	9:30-11:30	GWAEA Conference Center in Cedar Rapids
Beth Happe	9/7/11	1:00-2:30	Prairie Lakes AEA in Pocahontas
Beth Happe & TBD	9/6/11	1:00-3:30	Heartland AEA in Johnston, Room 13A & B
Janet Boyd	9/13/11 9/14/11 9/15/11	10:00-12:00 10:00-12:00 10:00-12:00	GHAEA in Harlan, Iowa Western CC-Room 113 GHAEA in Glenwood GHAEA in Creston



Iowa students wanted in nation's capital

Two Iowa high school students will be picked this fall to walk in the shoes of senators, federal judges, presidential advisors and other leaders who got their first taste of Washington, D.C. through the United States Senate Youth Program.

The distinguished program brings two students from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity to Washington for a week each year to learn about the workings of the federal government. The 2012 student delegation will mark the program's 50th anniversary when it meets March 3-10.

The program is open to high school juniors and seniors who are elected student officers for the 2011-12 school year. Students are chosen for their outstanding track records in leadership, academics and public service. Each will receive a \$5,000 college scholarship and an all-expenses paid trip to the nation's capital. Iowa's selection deadline is October 3. Students can apply through their high school principals, guidance counselors and social studies teachers or through their state selection contacts. Contact Cheryl Mullenbach at the Iowa Department of Education for more information: 515-494-5610 or cheryl.mullenbach@iowa.gov. Student delegates will be announced in December. Go to <http://www.ussenateyouth.org> for more information about the program.

Iowa Culture and Language Conference

The 2011 Iowa Culture and Language Conference is scheduled for November 7-9 at the Coralville Marriott in Coralville. Presenters for the November 7 pre-conference sessions include Jane Hill, Anne Lundquist, Betty Smallwood, Margarita Calderon, Janette Klinger and Socorro Herrera. Regular conference sessions begin November 8. Additional presenters include Sunday Goshit, Margo Gottlieb, Nick Miraflores, Kathy Olson and Mark Grey.

For more information and registration materials, contact iclc@nwaea.org or Teresa Angerman, NWAEA administrative assistant, at 712-222-6015. The conference's mission is to advocate for culturally and/or linguistically diverse students and their families, educators and service providers.



Iowa Reading Association Conference 2012



It's never too early to start planning for the Iowa Reading Association's first summer conference in 2012.

The Iowa Reading Association/ Title I ESEA annual conference is called *Summer Vacation: Destination Literacy!* The event is set for Tuesday, June 26, and Wednesday, June 27, 2012 in the Scheman Building on the Iowa State University campus in Ames.

For more information go to: http://www.iowareading.org/Iowa_Reading_Association/2012_Conference_Information.html or contact Tony Pieper, 2012 conference chair, at tpieper@bcluw.org.

PBIS exemplary schools recognition

The Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) state leadership team is excited to announce the 13 schools that have received recognition awards. Schools are recognized for outstanding implementation of PBIS and their commitment to provide a safe, healthy, caring learning environment in which all learners can benefit from positive behavioral supports. There are three levels of awards: Honor, Banner and Paramount for which different criteria apply. Congratulations to all PBIS exemplary schools!

This recognition process was introduced during the 2009-2010 school year. The following four schools received awards:

- Sioux Central Elementary – AEA 8, Honor
- Whittier Elementary - AEA 9, Honor
- East Sac Elementary – AEA 8, Paramount
- Stratford Elementary – AEA 8, Paramount

The 2010-11 recognized schools are:

Honor School Award:

Centennial Elementary – AEA 11
Graettinger-Terill Community School - AEA 8
Lakewood Elementary – AEA 11
Lou Henry Elementary – AEA 267
Phillips Middle School – AEA 8
Sacred Heart School – AEA 12
Sioux Central Elementary – AEA 8
Webster Middle School – AEA 8
West Sioux Elementary School – AEA 12

Banner School Award:

Clayton Ridge Middle School – AEA 1
Robert Blue Middle School – AEA 8
Eleanor Roosevelt Middle School – AEA 1
Sunset Heights Elementary School – AEA 8

Paramount School Award:

Sac City Elementary School – AEA 8



LIBRARY SURVEY

The Iowa Department of Education and the Area Education Agency (AEA) media directors want your help with the ninth annual survey of Iowa school libraries.

This survey calls for information about hours, collections, services, expenditures, staffing and staff activities, technology and partnerships with public libraries and AEAs. In addition to providing school library data that are comparable at the state and national level, these survey results will help school leaders make decisions about their library needs.

Each school building's teacher librarian should complete and return the online survey no later than September 30. Other staff members can complete the survey for schools that do not have teacher librarians.

The survey can be found at <http://207.28.65.253/LS2011/LS2011.htm>. Instructions with the your school's login and password will be emailed to your school librarian. Contact the media specialist at your AEA if a password does not arrive.

Questions should be directed to a media specialist at your AEA or to Deb Hindman, Iowa Department of Education, 515-281-6235 or deb.hindman@iowa.gov.

Engage students in Iowa School Energy Challenge



Get ready for the Iowa School Energy Challenge this fall.

The Center for Energy & Environmental Education (CEEE) at the University of Northern Iowa once again will offer the program, which engages students in grades 6 - 12 in practical, hands-on strategies to reduce energy consumption schoolwide through conservation and efficiency. The Iowa School Energy Challenge project fulfills the Iowa Core goals of problem-based learning in the classroom by using real-world examples of energy use in the students' environment. Participation is free.

The project involves forming a student team through a class (Science, Talented & Gifted, or Industrial Technology) or a club gathered specifically for this task. The team will work with the school's local utility provider and/or the CEEE to

conduct energy audits of classrooms to evaluate, measure and benchmark electricity use.

The team also will raise awareness of energy use throughout the school.

"This project will present to secondary students how electrical energy is used at their school, explore where electricity use could be reduced and educate other students and teachers where they can reduce electrical use in the building," said Jeff Beneke, program manager for the Iowa School Energy Challenge.

Mike Moats, a Knoxville High School chemistry teacher who participated in the Iowa School Energy Challenge last year, believes students get involved for many reasons. "When students identify opportunities through a practical means like this, they are more likely to practice the same process with their own energy use. We hope to see reduced energy bills at our high school and to see students taking what they learn home with them."



Program sponsors include the Center for Energy & Environmental Education at UNI, Alliant Energy and the Iowa Office of Energy Independence through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. For more information, contact Jeff Beneke at 319-273-3850 or jeff.beneke@uni.edu.



... continued from page 1 *Let's work together to remodel education*

We must rekindle the innovative spirit that pushes our education system to take on new approaches, learn from them and keep getting better. The Iowa Education Summit on July 25-26 was a critical first step in this process of improvement. It was a privilege to come together with so many committed teachers, school administrators, education leaders, policymakers, parents and others who care so deeply about Iowa's children and the future of our state. With the summit, we set out to make the case that it's time for significant change, to learn about options and to spur discussion about what it will take to restore the state's standing as a leader in education.

Missed the Education Summit?

Video coverage will be posted incrementally throughout August. Watch for it here:

<https://educateiowa.eduvision.tv/>

Now it's time to come together on the next steps. In the weeks ahead, we will be listening and working with people and groups across the state to identify strategies as we set out to remodel our house of education. There will be fear and skepticism as we build that blueprint. But we must work to build a coalition in service of improvement that sets aside political differences and ideology and instead builds on pragmatism, reason, tolerance and, most importantly, love for Iowa's schools and its children. We must give all of our students a world-class education. Iowa's children deserve nothing less.

— Jason E. Glass

... continued from page 1 *Report: Iowa's education system in need of major remodel*

The report, "Rising to Greatness: An Imperative for Improving Iowa's Schools," provides critical information that will help policymakers, educators, parents and other Iowans target solutions in a statewide effort to restore Iowa's standing as a leader in education. Read it at <http://www.educateiowa.gov>.

Findings include:

- In 1992, no state scored higher than Iowa on the NAEP in fourth-grade reading. By 2009, however, 13 states scored significantly higher than Iowa.
- From 1992 to 2009, Iowa's eighth-grade NAEP mathematics scores fell from the top in the nation to average.
- Only 29 percent of Iowa eighth-grade students who took the NAEP in 2009 were enrolled in Algebra I or another higher-level mathematics course. Students in only three states recorded lower enrollment.
- Iowa's majority white students are underperforming. When 2009 NAEP assessment scores are disaggregated by race and socioeconomic standing, Iowa's mean scores are below the national average for white students.
- Hispanic and African American student groups have lagged behind white students in proficiency over the past decade in fourth-grade reading and eighth-grade mathematics on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills.
- The achievement gap between Iowa students with and without disabilities on the 2009 NAEP is the worst in the nation.
- Despite Iowa's above-average scores on the ACT college entrance exam, the percentage of test-takers who met all four ACT benchmarks showing they are ready for college was 30 percent in 2010.
- Iowa tied for the 16th lowest percentage of people with a bachelor's degree (25.1 percent) in 2009, according to a national comparison.

Early Childhood Preschool Programs

Revised IQPPS verification visit schedule for 2011-12

The Iowa Department of Education has realigned the schedule of Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS) verification for Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program districts funded in 2010-11, or funding Year 4. Due to limited resources, verification visits for Year 4 districts will be conducted over three years. This is the schedule:

School Improvement Visit is:	IQPPS verification visit* will occur:
2011-12	2011-12
2012-13	2012-13
2013-14	2011-12
2014-15	2012-13
2015-16	2013-14
*Refers to districts funded in Year 4 (2010-11) only.	

Districts participating in verification visits for 2011-12 have been contacted. Districts funded in Year 1 (2007-08) that are scheduled for a 2011-12 school improvement visit will participate in a desk audit. More information will be provided this year.

Preschool data reporting requirements

All Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs for Four-Year-Old Children (SWVPP) districts are required to provide and approve updated preschool information to the Iowa Department of Education (DE). This information is entered into the early childhood application via the DE Secure Reporting Site by September 15 each year. Districts are required to address the 2011-12 school year, including information about preschool program contact, district assurances, curriculum/assessment, preschool sessions and session program standards. Child data are submitted to the DE through the Electronic Access System for Iowa Education Records (EASIER) at the October 1 count date. Additional guidance can be found on the data reporting requirements webinar and script at http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=940&Itemid=1279. For more information, contact Judy Russell (515-281-4705 or Judy.Russell@iowa.gov) or Penny Milburn (515-281-7844 or Penny.Milburn@iowa.gov).

GOLD assessment system

The Iowa Department of Education is close to completing an agreement for a state license with Teaching Strategies, Inc. to provide the GOLD online assessment system to all state and federal early childhood programs and services, including school districts and their community partners. This online system provides opportunities for subscribers to record anecdotal records, work samples and assessment ratings. It allows programs, as well as the state, to access a variety of reports about child progress. District officials who are interested in administering the GOLD assessment can subscribe to the GOLD online system at an estimated reduced cost of \$10.45 per child per year. Agencies or districts are responsible for the subscription cost. More information about cost and activation, online professional development and other resources will be announced later. The DE is working closely with an implementation team at Teaching Strategies to ensure a smooth transition to GOLD. To learn more, to sign up for an online demonstration, to view a GOLD webinar or to visit the bookshop, please go to: <http://www.teachingstrategies.com/page/GOLD.cfm>. For more information about the GOLD online assessment, contact Penny Milburn at 515-281-7844 or penny.milburn@iowa.gov.

Data & Reporting

Data conference for fall reporting

The day will include more than 30 sessions, all providing answers to the question, “You can

Who: Anyone involved with fall state reporting

What: Statewide Data Conference

Where: FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny, IA

When: August 8 from 8:30 am – 3:20 pm

Registration fee: None

do that with my data?” By understanding how and where your data are being used, you will be prepared to make sure they accurately represent the current status of your students. Sessions highlighting some of the newest technology projects at the

Iowa Department of Education (DE) will include SIF (Schools Interoperability Framework), the Iowa Education Portal and the Iowa Transcript Center. Join DE director Jason Glass, the EASIER and BEDS teams, numerous DE consultants and other partners in a day of informational sessions about data reporting expectations for 2011-12. Register [HERE](#). See the conference schedule and other information [HERE](#). Participants will receive the 2011-12 data dictionary. Individuals who are unable to attend can download the data dictionary [HERE](#). Read about the latest developments on the eTranscript, SIF and Portal projects on the [State Longitudinal Data System](#) website.



Annual Progress Report (APR) update

Iowa Testing Program (ITP) will begin to use standard scores to determine levels of proficiency on the New Iowa Assessments in the 2011-12 school year. ITP is in the process of identifying cut scores for proficiency using standard scores, as well as proficiency ranges (high, intermediate, low). Annual Progress Report (APR) goals must describe a desired measureable annual improvement based on proficiency (standard scores beginning in 2011-12) or grade-level equivalency. Best practice is to base goals on proficiency. For more information, contact Holly Barnes at 515-242-6173 or holly.barnes@iowa.gov.

Grants & Funding

Program helps students in distressed neighborhoods



A program aimed at helping students who live in distressed rural and tribal communities is accepting grant applications from nonprofits, higher education institutions and Native American tribes. This is something you may want to share with your networks.

This is the second phase of the [Promise Neighborhoods program](#), which includes new implementation grants and a second round of planning grants totaling \$30 million.

The program is administered through the U.S. Department of Education.

Applications can only come from nonprofits, institutions of higher education and Native American tribes. Grants may be used to develop or execute plans that will improve educational and developmental outcomes for students in distressed neighborhoods.

For more information, go to <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-releases-2011-application-promise-neighborhoods-program->

Student Health and Nutrition

Protection from concussions and other brain injuries

The key provisions of the new Iowa Law, “*Brain Injury*,” effective fall 2011, include:

- Annually, every student in grades 7-12, along with their parents/guardians, must receive and sign a concussion and brain injury information sheet before participation in interscholastic sports, cheerleading and dance (*practice or competition*).
- A student must be removed immediately from participation (*practice or competition*) in an extracurricular interscholastic sport, cheerleading and dance if his/her coach or a contest official observes signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain injury.
- A student returns to participation (*practice or competition*) in an extracurricular interscholastic sport, cheerleading and dance when a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and other brain injuries evaluates the student and provides the school with a signed clearance.



Forms developed by the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU) include the information and signature sheet, “Heads Up: Concussion in High School Sports.” This form is to be used beginning this fall for all interscholastic sports, cheerleading and dance. Students cannot *practice or compete* until this form is signed and returned to the school. The parents/guardians keep the concussion and brain injury information sheet and return the sheet signature portion to the school. It is permissible to include the acknowledgement of receipt statement as part of the general forms parents and students sign.

The information is available at on the IHSAA and IGHSAU websites.

The IHSAA and IGHSAU also have updated the Concussion Management Protocol so it complies with the new legislation. Included in the protocol is “Return to Participation Protocol Following a Concussion.”

For the purposes of this legislation, a “licensed health care provider” means a physician, physician assistant, chiropractor, advanced registered nurse practitioner, nurse, physical therapist or athletic trainer licensed by a board. Links to the law, 2011 forms, and information follow.

- Law: http://www.iahsaa.org/Sports_Medicine_Wellness/Concussions/Iowa_Code_280_13C.pdf
- IHSAA forms and information: <http://www.iahsaa.org/>
- http://www.iahsaa.org/Sports_Medicine_Wellness/Concussions/concussions.html
- http://www.iahsaa.org/Sports_Medicine_Wellness/Concussions/Concussion_Management_Protocol_2011.pdf
- IGHSAU: <http://www.ighsau.org/>

The IHSAA and IGHSAU home pages link to a free, 20-minute concussion course hosted by Mick Koester M.D., ATC, NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, chair and director of Slocum Sports Concussion, Eugene, Oregon.

All school administrators, coaches and sports officials should view the course: <http://www.nfhsllearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=15000>. School superintendents, secondary school principals and athletic directors received this information by email on June 21. For more information, contact Alan Beste, assistant executive director, IHSAA, PO Box 10, Boone, IA 50036-0010, 515-432-2011 or abeste@iahsaa.org.

Transportation

School bus stop arm violation survey



Earlier this spring, Iowa school districts were urged to be part of a nationwide school bus stop arm violation survey. A school bus stop arm violation occurs when another motorist passes a stopped school bus while the bus is either loading or unloading students. This is illegal in all states, including Iowa, and is a very serious trend.

With that in mind, Iowa joined with 27 other states, and on May 11 conducted a statewide stop arm violation survey. The nationwide results were released recently by the National Association of State Directors of

Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS), organizers of the nationwide survey. NASDPTS will be working with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the American Automobile Association (AAA) to strengthen the pass-by laws across the nation and to bring some much-needed attention to this alarming issue.

Go to <http://www.nasdpts.org/StopArm2011/index.html> to view the nationwide survey results. For more information, contact Max Christensen at 515-281-4749 or max.christensen@iowa.gov.

Survey results in Iowa:

- *Number of buses participating:* 2,295 (about 46% of the buses in Iowa)
- *Number of violation incidents:* 327 (the number of times a vehicle passed the stop sign of a stopped school bus)
- *Number of violating vehicles:* 393 (the number of vehicles that passed those stopped school buses – some incidents involved more than one violating vehicle)
- *Percentage that occurred during a.m. routes:* 46.2%
- *Percentage that occurred during mid-day routes:* 3.6%
- *Percentage that occurred during p.m. routes:* 50.3%
- *Percentage that passed from the front of the bus:* 63.9%
- *Percentage that passed from the rear of the bus:* 36.1%
- *Percentage that passed on the left:* 97% (the road side of the bus)
- *Percentage that passed on the right:* 3% (the side where the door is located)





Legal Lessons

Contact Carol Greta for all Legal Lessons items (carol.greta@iowa.gov or 515-281-8661).

FERPA, DE Administrative Rules

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Responsibilities

In March, the U.S. Department of Education sent an email to all LEA superintendents regarding responsibilities under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA). These are very helpful resources. Please take time to become familiar with them. Questions about FERPA or the PPRA should be directed to the Family Policy Compliance Office of the U.S. Department of Education at 202-260-3887 or FERPA@ed.gov.

Model notification of rights under FERPA (to be sent to families of elementary and secondary students):

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/pdf/ferparights.pdf>

Model Notification of Directory Information under FERPA:

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/pdf/directoryinfo.pdf>

PPRA Model Notice and Consent/Opt-Out for Specific Activities:

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/pdf/ppraconsent.pdf>

Model Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA):

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/pdf/ppranotice.pdf>

DE Administrative Rules

The State Board of Education, at its July 27 meeting, voted to give public notice of its intent to amend the following chapters of administrative rules. School districts are impacted only by the change to chapter 22:

22, Senior Year Plus Program

The proposed rule clarifies that the school district is to make transportation to concurrent enrollment courses available to eligible students who are enrolled in, and are attending, a concurrent enrollment course at a community college. (Transportation to PSEO courses remains the responsibility of the student.) In 2011, the Legislature struck Iowa Code section 261E.8, subsection 5, which had provided that the parent or guardian of a student attending a community college under concurrent enrollment “shall furnish transportation to and from the community college for the student.” School districts receive supplementary funds from the state on behalf of students who participate in concurrent enrollment courses. These funds, in part, are to assist a school district in providing student transportation to and from concurrent enrollment courses.

21, Community Colleges

The changes all pertain to the Drinking Driver Courses that must be offered by community colleges.

Legal Lessons continued

24, Community College Accreditation

These changes edit matters of accreditation of community colleges.

32, High School Equivalency Diploma (GED)

The scoring of the five tests was changed a few years ago by the General Educational Development Testing Service; the first rule edit conforms to that change. The other edits change the amount of fees charged for various functions because the fees, which have not been raised in over 20 years, have not been sufficient to cover the DE's costs.

It is anticipated that these proposed rule changes will be adopted by the State Board at its meeting in Des Moines on November 16-17. The rules calendar on the DE's website includes links to the specific changes:

http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=75&Itemid=4213.

Fees

There is no such thing as a "registration fee," so avoid using that term. The chart of allowable fees is at

<https://www.edinfo.state.ia.us/web/appeals.asp?book=25&decision=62>.

Fee waivers, full and partial, are governed by chapter 18 administrative rules at <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/aspx/ACODocs/DOCS/7-13-2011.281.18.pdf>.

A full waiver of all fees shall be granted if the student or the student's family meets the financial eligibility criteria for free meals, for the Family Investment Program (FIP), for transportation assistance under open enrollment, or if the student is in foster care. A partial waiver is appropriate if the student or student's family meets the financial eligibility criteria for reduced-price meals, and is based on "a sliding scale related to an ability to pay." One simple way to justify the amount of a partial waiver is to make sure that it corresponds to the percentage of the reduced-price meal from full-price meal. Finally, each school district has discretion to grant a temporary waiver of one or more fees in the event of a temporary financial difficulty in the student's immediate family. This temporary waiver may be granted at any time during a school year; the maximum length of a temporary waiver shall be one year.

Scholarship Rule Updated Guidance

The guidance regarding the "scholarship rule" of 281—Iowa Administrative Code 36.15(2) has been updated, including a chart at the end of the document of first legal playing dates for all interscholastic sports for the 2011-2012 school year: http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1157:athletic-eligibility&catid=411:legal-lessons.

Flooding Update 2011

The Iowa Department of Education extends its sympathy and support to all students, parents and school personnel affected by the flooding in western Iowa.

A disaster of this scope can have a significant impact on school programming.

Gary Schwartz, who was the agency liaison to the Rebuild Iowa Office during the 2008 floods, will serve as the point of contact for all flood-related questions, including residency and counting students, transportation issues, athletic eligibility and flexibility on regulations, among other issues.

Contact Gary at (515) 281-4743 or gary.schwartz@iowa.gov.

Calendar

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| August 1 | • Foster Care Claim |
| August 1 | • Special Education District Court Placed Claim Due |
| August 1 | • Special Education Foster Care Claim Due |
| August 1 | • Special Education High Cost Fund Claim Due |
| August 1 | • Special Education Provided to Nonpublic Schools Claim Due |
| August 1 | • Progress Report Toward Reorganization Due |
| August 1 | • Juvenile Home Claim |
| August 1 | • Foster Care Claim Certification |
| September 1 | • Kindergarten Open Enrollment for 2011-12 due |

It is the policy of the Iowa Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, gender, disability, religion, age, political party affiliation, or actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code sections 216.9 and 256.10(2), Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d and 2000e), the Equal Pay Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 206, et seq.), Title IX (Educational Amendments, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 – 1688), Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.). If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by the Iowa Department of Education, please contact the legal counsel for the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319-0146, telephone number 515/281-5295; or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661, telephone number 312-730-1560, fax 312/730-1576, e-mail: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov



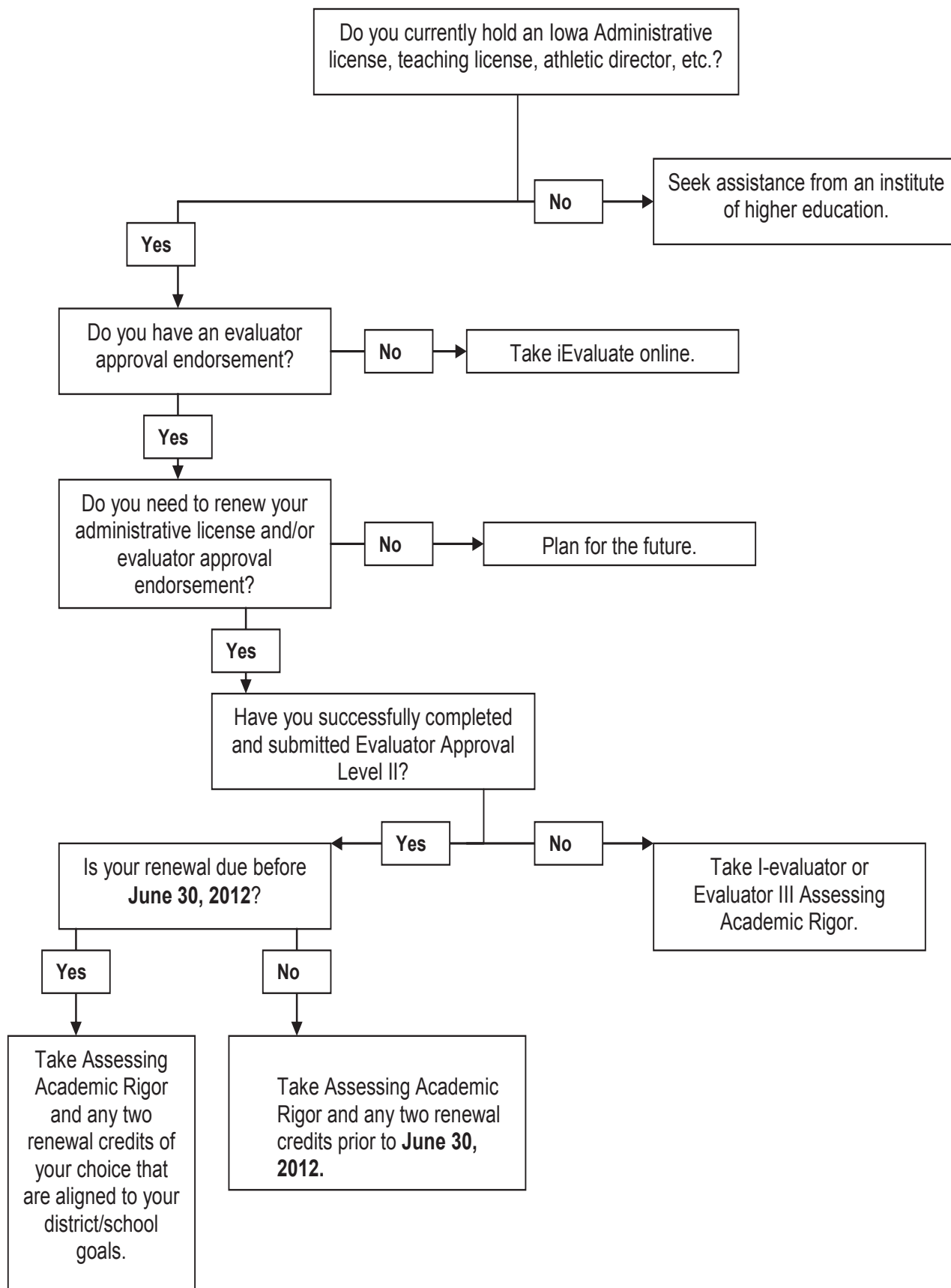
www.iowa.gov/educate

Iowa Department of Education

400 E 14th Street
Grimes State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Ph: 515-281-5294
www.iowa.gov/educate

Evaluator Approval Process

Effective January 2011 – June 30, 2012



Iowa Evaluator Approval Training Program III Frequently Asked Questions (July 2011-2012)

Participants — Course Registration and Responsibilities

What is Evaluator Approval Level III?

Answer: A third level of Evaluator Renewal that includes a common learning module Assessing Academic Rigor. In addition, a module entitled Fierce Conversations is available through the Area Education Agencies.

Who is eligible for completing courses in Evaluator Approval Level III?

Answer: This course is for any individual who has completed and submitted Evaluator I or Evaluator II.

What are the modules that a participant may take to complete the requirement for Evaluator Approval Level III?

Answer: Each participant must complete four credits for renewal of his/her evaluator approval. The courses must come from the approved list:

Assessing Academic Rigor (2 credits) – Required

AND

*Two additional credits, two of which **may** be Fierce Conversations (2 credits)*

After completing Level II renewal I have already completed two additional credits, may I use those two additional credits and the Assessing Academic Rigor course for renewal?

Answer: Yes, the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE) does understand that some professionals have already completed two additional hours and were awaiting information from the DE about future evaluator training to complete the necessary four renewal credits. To accommodate those individuals, the DE will allow a professional to use credits accumulated prior to June 30, 2012, plus the **Assessing Academic Rigor** module for renewal purposes.

If I obtain my Level III renewal and after that the requirements for Level III renewal change, will I have to obtain a second version of Level III renewal?

Answer: To be determined.

How do participants register for the courses related to Evaluator Approval Level III?

Answer: Each participant will register through an AEA offering the desired course.

What is the charge for participation in each course?

Answer: Each course fee qualifying for Evaluator Approval Level III is \$275.00 plus any potential resource/book charge.

Who is responsible for paying for the \$275 for each course?

Answer: The administrator completing each course is responsible for either paying for each course or arranging for payment of the course.

What additional costs will a participant have for each course?

Answer: Each participant is responsible for the resource/book needed for the course and any travel expenses.

Are there pre-assignments for Assessing Academic Rigor?

Answer: This will vary from course to course.

What if a participant misses a class? What are the attendance requirements?

Answer: Please check your schedule. The AEAs will not be offering these courses simultaneously, so it will be difficult to make up course time and work. A participant **MUST** complete all 30 hours of the course to receive the credits. An attendance policy/procedure will be provided with each course.

How are participants graded?

Answer: Participants must complete all assignments at a minimum designation of satisfactory based on a rubric and attend all classes to minimum expectations for each course.

How does a participant get his/her certificate to provide to the BOEE (Board of Educational Examiners)?

Answer: The enrolling AEA will provide to SAI a list of individuals who have satisfactorily completed course requirements. SAI will then issue a certificate of completion. The participant is required to submit the SAI certificate to the BOEE when ready to update his/her license.

AEA Responsibilities

Is there an AEA point person for communication with trainers?

Answer: The Evaluator Advisory committee will seek the name/contact information for a point person from each AEA. This information will be shared with each trainer, whose contact information will be shared with the AEA point person. These individuals will work together to establish delivery of the course(s) in each AEA; they will also assure the course(s) offered, including their dates and sites, are noted on the leadership web site, <http://www.iowaschoolleadership.org/>

What are AEA responsibilities for each course, based on the \$275.00 paid to the AEA by each participant?

Answer: The AEA is responsible for the following based on the \$275.00 enrollment fee of each participant:

Registration and communication regarding the training logistics

SAI Notification: Each AEA will share a list of participants who completed the course, including mailing address and folder number, to SAI in addition to \$10 for each participant who completed the course satisfactorily.

Materials & equipment - Please contact your respective AEA Professional Development Coordinator.

Printing, with blackline/copy ready masters available at a designated web site available to AEA contact and certified trainers/facilitators

Fee for facilitators/trainers: \$1750 for each of the two trainers/facilitators

Expenses for facilitators/trainers: travel, lodging of each trainer/facilitator, as needed

Site costs

Is there a certain number of participants that is a cap for the trainer/facilitator stipend of \$1750 for each trainer/facilitator? A minimum number?

Answer: Each facilitator/trainer will be paid \$1750 for 20-24 participants. To assure that AEAs do not lose any money providing the course, they should offer the course with a minimum of 20 participants. If, however, they are able to minimize expenses shared above, they could consider a lower number of participants for each course, particularly in some of the smaller AEAs

Additional Information

Who is on the Evaluator Advisory Committee?

Answer: Mike Book (ISU), Jeff Burchfield (principal), Chris Day (consultant), Bill Decker (superintendent), Mary Delagardelle (IASB), Peg Erke (principal), Sharon Kurns (AEA), Jan Norgaard (AEA), Lou Howell (consultant), Kim Huckstadt (superintendent), Carol Lensing (consultant), Matt Ludwig (DE), George Maurer (BoEE), Cathy Molumby (superintendent), Tom Narak (superintendent), Nick Ouellette (principal), Marietta Rives (DE), Mary Beth Schroeder Fracek (DE), Dan Smith (SAI), Ann Sullivan (AEA), Jere Vyverberg (superintendent), Warren Weber (consultant)

Who are the trainers? How were trainers selected for Assessing Academic Rigor?

Answer: Since Assessing Academic Rigor will be required for all, it was the first module developed. Trainer application information was provided through SAI, the DE, and the AEAs. Applications were submitted and reviewed by a sub-committee of the Evaluator Advisory committee. The following criteria were considered: statewide balance across the AEAs, role balance (representatives from within AEAs, as well as individuals with experience as an educational practitioner), reference recommendations, trainer experience (Evaluator I/II or other courses/experiences with similar expectations).

How many trainers are there for each course?

Answer: The current plan is that each course will have two trainers (one individual with district leadership experience and one with professional development experience) unless there are extenuating circumstances.

If a trainer is an employee and is on contract with an agency when the training is offered, where does the money for the facilitators/trainers charges go?

Answer: If the employee is being paid his/her per diem through the organization's contract, then the stipend portion of the fee would remain with the organization.

How do we assure consistency in delivery and content across the state in each of the courses provided?

Answer: The Iowa Department of Education will provide an approved syllabus and common training and materials for all trainers. All participants will be asked to complete an online evaluation upon completion of each course.